

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Amended claims: 1, 3-6, 8, deleted claim 10 and added new claims 11-18.

1. (Currently Amended) A process of preparing glycolaldehyde which comprises reacting formaldehyde with hydrogen and carbon monoxide in the presence of a catalyst composition comprising ~~which is based on~~,

- a) a source of rhodium, and
- b) a ligand of general formula



wherein  $R^1$  is a bivalent radical that together with the phosphorous atom to which it is attached is an optionally substituted 2-phospha-tricyclo[3.3.1.1{3,7}]-decyl group, wherein from 1 to 5 of the carbon atoms have ~~has~~-been replaced by a heteroatom, and wherein  $R^2$  is a monovalent radical which is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms.

2. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst composition further comprises c) a source of anions.

3. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein bivalent radical  $R^1$  together with the phosphorous atom to which it is attached is a 2-phospha-1,3,5,7-tetralkyl-6,9,10-trioxa-tricyclo[3.3.1.1{3,7}]-decyl group.

4. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein monovalent radical  $R^2$  is an alkyl group having from 4 to 34 carbon atoms.

5. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to claim 3~~, wherein monovalent radical  $R^2$  is of the general formula



wherein  $R^3$  is an alkylene group and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  independently represent an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or alkaryl group, or  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  together represent a bivalent bridging group.

6. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the ~~source of~~ formaldehyde is aqueous formaldehyde and the reaction is performed in a reaction medium comprising an aqueous phase and an organic phase, wherein the organic phase and aqueous phase are immiscible at 22 °C.

7. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the organic phase comprises a water-immiscible amide solvent.

8. (Currently Amended) A catalyst composition comprising ~~obtainable by combining~~ a) a source of rhodium, and b) a ligand of general formula



wherein  $R^1$  is a bivalent radical that together with the phosphorous atom to which it is attached is an optionally substituted 2-phospha-tricyclo[3.3.1.1<sup>3,7</sup>]-decyl group, wherein from 1 to 5 of the carbon atoms have ~~has~~ been replaced by a heteroatom, and wherein  $R^2$  is a monovalent radical which is an optionally substituted alkyl group having from 10 to 40 carbon atoms, or monovalent radical  $R^2$  is of the general formula



wherein  $R^3$  is an alkylene group and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  independently represent an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or alkaryl group, or  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  together represent a bivalent bridging group, ~~and optionally c) a source of anions.~~

9. (Original) A catalyst composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein, in the ligand b),  $R^2$  is of the general formula II.

10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A catalyst composition as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a source of anions.

12. (New) A process for preparing ethylene glycol comprising:  
forming glycolaldehyde by reacting formaldehyde with hydrogen and carbon monoxide in the presence of a catalyst composition comprising
- a) a source of rhodium, and
  - b) a ligand of general formula



wherein  $R^1$  is a bivalent radical that together with the phosphorous atom to which it is attached is an optionally substituted 2-phospha-tricyclo[3.3.1.1{3,7}]-decyl group, wherein from 1 to 5 of the carbon atoms have been replaced by a heteroatom, and wherein  $R^2$  is a monovalent radical which is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms; and  
hydrogenating said glycolaldehyde.

13. (New) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the catalyst composition further comprises c) a source of anions.

14. (New) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein bivalent radical  $R^1$  together with the phosphorous atom to which it is attached is a 2-phospha-1,3,5,7-tetralkyl-6,9,10-trioxa-tricyclo[3.3.1.1{3,7}]-decyl group.

15. (New) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein monovalent radical  $R^2$  is an alkyl group having from 4 to 34 carbon atoms.

16. (New) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein monovalent radical  $R^2$  is of the general formula



wherein  $R^3$  is an alkylene group and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  independently represent an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or alkaryl group, or  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  together represent a bivalent bridging group.

17. (New) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the formaldehyde is aqueous formaldehyde and the reaction is performed in a reaction medium comprising

an aqueous phase and an organic phase, wherein the organic phase and aqueous phase are immiscible at 22 °C.

18. (New) A process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the organic phase comprises a water-immiscible amide solvent.